THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) F&V Plant, Mangolpuri procures fruits and vegetables from various States outside Delhi. Quality check is made for all purchases of fruit and vegetable Items.

(b) Sorted/graded fruits and vegetables are procured from the farmers/farmers' organizations of various States as per the quality specifications given to them. Quality and quantity of fruits and vegetables received are checked at the Plant Dock. Produces are accepted only if it meets the quality specifications.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply above.

Loan to Farmers by NABARD

†4692. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are concerned about not bringing down rate of interest on loans to farmers by NABARD;

(b) if so, whether Government are serious about suicides being committed by farmers on account of loans;

(c) if so, whether any suggestions has been made to NABARD to deal leniently in case of loans to farmers; and

(d) whether any suggestion or decison in the above case is likely to be Implemented by NABARD keeping in view the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Matters pertaining to reduction in the rate of interest, providing increased amount of institutional credit and avoiding coercive measures in recovering the loans from the farmers have

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

been taken up from time to time with the concerned Department/ State Governments NABARD.

(d) NABARD has already reduced the rate of interest on refinance by 0.5% on short term loans. It is however pointed out that NABARD provides refinance to the cooperative banks to the extent of about 23% of total lending only. The remaining 77% of the advances are arranged by the cooperative banks themselves through deposit etc. at a high cost. NABARD is also implementing the scheme of Kisan Credit Card to farmers and has been given a target to cover all the eligible farmers in the country by March 2004. This will help farmers to access the institutional credit easily and adequately.

Recovery of fertilizer subsidy

†4693. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector fertilizer producing factories had received additional subsidy from Government, during the last three years;

(b) if so, which are those factories and the amount of additional subsidies received by them during that period, year-wise; and

(c) whether this additional subsidy has been recovered by Government; if not, the outstanding amount yet to be recovered, upto March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Urea, being the only fertilizer at present under statutory

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